

PS
1599
E7
V5



PS
1599
E7V5

Cornell University Library

THE GIFT OF

Edwin Emerson

A.214131

12/6/0

VERSES

By

Edwin Emerson, Sr.

On the Completion of his Eighty-second Year

Tokyo, July 2, 1905.

F

P

A, 214131

11283772
2011 08 11

Now, in the closing hours of a long life,
A friend of peace, contemner of vain strife,
Surrounded by my books, with learning rife,
I sit and muse.

Full pleasant thoughts have I of youthful days ;
When, with my friends, we roamed in sunny ways ;
And, from the fullness of our hearts sang praise,
To loved-one's eyes.

Then came more earnest life, with mind employed ;
The well-built home midst flowers, we all enjoyed ;
Where rural scenes and pleasures seldom cloyed.
Too short those years.

And next, I can recall strong manhood's prime ;
'Twas then I roamed abroad, from clime to clime ;
And saw great nations waste their precious time,
In diverse ways.

Astonished, and in grief to contemplate,
How peoples by their passions rush on fate ;
I watched the outcome,—ruin to the State
 All stained with blood.

A nation sometimes widely goes astray ;
Race, creed, a fancied wrong, brings on the fray ;
Then rancour, greed and hate, impel to slay
 Opposing men.

Then, many thousands prematurely die ;
And hosts of helpless wounded, groaning, lie ;
Then, nameless horrors, dearest rights defy ;
 Can hell be worse ?

A tragedy enacted to the end,
Drives home a moral all can apprehend ;
An unwise State its neighbors may befriend,
 And warn betimes.

In earlier years, I saw Pro-slavery slain ;
Next, at Sedan, beheld France fight in vain
And only reap the sober world's disdain.
Her Empire fell.

A land in woe before our gaze appears ;
Defeat, great ruin, spoiling future years ;
Ah ! who can tell the bitterness of tears
Which flow too late.

Here, in these lovely islands on the sea,
Behold a people fond of industry,
Poetic, hardy, trained for liberty,—
Who dares enslave ?

Yea, hungry Russia, threat'ning all around ;
Too easily the western money found,
For vast designs to seize all Asia's ground,
And streams and seas.

Thus Turkey, China and Afghānistān,
Corea, Persia, India and Japan,
And costly railways,—all disclosed the plan,
 To rule the East.

It was so clear that any child might read ;
This monstrous, cynical, enormous greed ;
Which only a whole continent might feed,
 And satisfy !

To craven nations, this was “ rule of fate : ”—
Full half a world, a twentieth-century State ;
And, Russia, glorious, each move dictate,
 From Slavic throne !

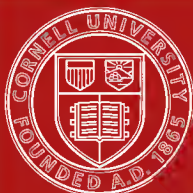
Divided Europe seemed almost supine ;
The hosts of India gave but feeble sign ;
A contest,—wounded China must decline.
 A fateful scene,

Must brutish cruelty thus rule the world ?
Or, barbarism from its prey be hurled ?
Shall flags of right and peace still wave unfurled
To bless mankind ?

Three nations the great peril clearly saw ;—
The aged England, great by reign of law ;
The western Giant, strong in peace and war ;
And—brave Japan.

Her Monarch,—loved, humane ; the people,—free
Invincible in arms on land, at sea ;
In forefront noble leaders, gallantly
Led on the host !

All glory to the heroes of Japan !
They show a valor, true men only can !
If need be, they will die to the last man !
Or win the day !



Cornell University Library

The original of this book is in
the Cornell University Library.

There are no known copyright restrictions in
the United States on the use of the text.

~~Cornell~~ University Library
PS 1599.E7V5

Verses on the completion of his eighty-s



3 1924 021 981 174

olin

